

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TP US AO

SUBJECT: SAO TOME

REF: LIBREVILLE 0580

1. I CONCUR IN THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL. I DO NOT SEE MUCH POINT IN CONGEN LUANDA TRYING TO KEEP ABREAST OF PERSONALITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SAO TOME WHEN MANY OF THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL TIES ARE WITH OR THROUGH LIBREVILLE AND AT A POINT IN TIME WHEN MANY OF THE CONNECTIONS WITH ANGOLA ARE ABOUT TO BE SEVERED.

2. THE LINKS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND SAO TOME ARE FEW; FIVE COME TO MIND. FIRST, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY ON SAO TOME COME UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ANGOLAN MILITARY REGION. SECOND, THE ARCH-BISHOP OF ANGOLA IS ALSO BISHOP OF SAO TOME. THIRD, THERE ARE THE FAMILY TIES; A NUMBER OF ANGOLANS HAVE SETTLED IN SAO TOME AND EDUCATED TOMEANS HAVE FOUND OPPORTUNITIES IN ANGOLA FOR WORK AND ADVANCEMENT. FOURTH, THERE ARE THE COMMERCIAL TIES; SAO TOME PURCHASES MANY OF ITS GOODS FROM ANGOLA. FIFTH IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MPLA AND AT LEAST SOME ELEMENTS IN THE MLSTP.

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3. NONE OF THE FOREGOING BONDS IS SUCH THAT ONE CAN MAKE

A PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT FOR THE CONTINUED SERVICING OF SAO TOME BY LUANDA. SOME OF THEM WILL DISAPPEAR IMMEDIATELY UPON INDEPENDENCE AND OTHERS WILL LOOSEN FAIRLY RAPIDLY.

4. TWO FACTORS THAT EMBASSY LIBREVILLE MAY FIND VEXING ARE LANGUAGE AND AIR SERVICE. MOST TOMEANS SPEAK ONLY PORTUGUESE, BUT I IMAGINE THE POLITICAL CADRE CAN GET ALONG IN FRENCH. SOURCES IN LUANDA TELL US NEITHER TAAG NOR AIR GABON YET HAS PASSENGER RIGHTS BETWEEN SAO TOME AND LIBREVILLE.
KILLORAN

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